

# Military Voting

The Office of the Secretary of State is committed to educating about elections and voting, and encouraging eligible persons to register to vote and cast an informed ballot.

With your service to our nation at home and abroad, you have defended the very freedoms that make up our great democracy.

## **How do I know if I'm registered to vote?**

Check if you are registered.

- Use MyVote at [www.vote.wa.gov](http://www.vote.wa.gov);
- Call your county elections department; or
- Call the Office of the Secretary of State.

## **What if I'm not a registered voter?**

Send in your Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). We will register you and send you a ballot.

## **If I'm overseas, how do I request an absentee ballot?**

The preferred way is to send in a FPCA to your county elections department at least thirty-five days before the election to provide ample time for a ballot to be mailed. The FPCA also serves as a voter registration form if you send in the hard copy.

The FPCA may be downloaded or printed at [www.fvap.gov/resources/media/fpca.pdf](http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/fpca.pdf).

If you are already a registered voter, you can also request a ballot be mailed to you by contacting your county elections department by phone, email, or fax.

## **Can my spouse or dependent use the FPCA form?**

Spouses and eligible voting age dependents residing in Washington should follow the state voter registration process and use a voter registration form available at [www.vote.wa.gov](http://www.vote.wa.gov). If residency is retained in Washington, but spouses and eligible voting age dependents of military personnel are out of the state or country, they may use the FPCA.

## **Where do I send my FPCA?**

Send your FPCA directly to your county elections department. If you are unsure what county you reside in, you may send the FPCA to the Office of the Secretary of State. Your mail ballot must be received by 8 am PST on Election Day.



## **What if I don't get my ballot in time?**

If you do not think your ballot will arrive in time for you to vote, use a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (see reverse). You may also contact your county elections department and request a ballot be faxed or emailed to you.

## **What is a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot?**

A Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) is a blank write-in ballot available to overseas and military citizens abroad who believe they will not receive their absentee ballots in time to vote. Washington residents who are citizens overseas may use an FWAB for any election in which they are eligible to vote.

FWABs are available at consulates, embassies, from your Voting Assistance Officers, and at [www.fvap.gov/resources/media/fwab.pdf](http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/fwab.pdf).

# land of the free

# home of the brave

## **What is the deadline to request a ballot?**

Election Day is the last day to request a ballot. However, it is best to have your request in at least thirty-five days before the election to ensure enough time to return your ballot. If you make a last-minute request, provide information so that the ballot may be sent electronically.

## **What is the voter registration deadline?**

For military and overseas citizens, the deadline is Election Day. However, you may still send a mail-in ballot even if you are not registered because your signature on the declaration attests to your eligibility and constitutes registration.

## **Can I get a ballot by fax or email?**

Yes! You can either contact your county elections department directly to request a faxed or emailed ballot, or you can indicate this preference on your FPCA in Box 4c. Include your email address or fax number on the form.

## **Can I return my ballot by fax or email?**

Yes! It must be voted, signed and dated on or before Election Day and received by 8 pm on Election Day PST.

## **I will be on vacation overseas during the election, but do not actually reside overseas. How can I vote?**

If you are not registered, you will need to submit your voter registration application no later than 29 days before the election. Visit [www.sos.wa.gov/elections/register.aspx](http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/register.aspx) for more information on registering to vote.

In addition to being eligible for an absentee ballot, you may qualify for an official ballot as early as 90 days before the election. To request a special absentee ballot, you must complete an application stating that you will be unable to vote and return an official ballot by normal mail delivery. Ballots may also be faxed or emailed to you. For more information, contact your county elections department. If you do not receive your absentee ballot while away, you may use a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot.

## **Contact information**

County elections departments  
[www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditors.aspx](http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditors.aspx)  
Office of the Secretary of State  
[www.vote.wa.gov](http://www.vote.wa.gov)  
(800) 448-4881  
Fax (360) 664-4619  
[elections@sos.wa.gov](mailto:elections@sos.wa.gov)  
Voter Services Office  
PO Box 40229  
Olympia, WA 98504-0229

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in Washington State



*Washington*  
Secretary of State  
SAM REED